



Department of Justice

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DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

OMAHA WOMAN SENTENCED FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO H.U.D.

June 6, 2011

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United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that Florence Stean Sherman, 51, of Omaha, Nebraska, was sentenced in Omaha on June 6, 2011, to five years probation by United States District Judge Laurie Smith Camp for making false statements in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. While on probation, Sherman will serve six months of home detention. Sherman was further ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$30,014.

The Douglas County Housing Authority administers a housing assistance program for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Tenants of public housing are required to submit annual certifications setting forth their eligibility to continue receiving housing assistance. These certification forms include information regarding assets owned, household income, and household composition. From 2003 through 2007, Sherman received \$23,014 in housing assistance benefits she was not entitled to receive by filing false certifications with the Douglas County Housing Authority. In these certifications, Sherman failed to report her ownership of both a daycare business and the building in which the daycare was operated. She also falsely claimed a niece to be her daughter residing in the unit with her and to support that claim she submitted an altered birth certificate showing her as the child's mother.

The Omaha Housing Authority administers the Section 8 housing assistance program for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Under the Section 8 program, the landlord cannot be the parent of the tenant. In 2006, Sherman purchased a home in Omaha and leased it to her daughter through a Section 8 voucher provided by the Omaha Housing Authority. Sherman made false certifications to OHA which concealed the fact that she was the parent of the tenant. As a result, Sherman received \$7,000 in Section 8 housing assistance payments she was not entitled to receive.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General.

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